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1958

Annual Report
of the
Medical Officer of Health



ROMSEY & STOCKBRIDGE
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



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ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

to the

ROMSEY AND STOCKBRIDGE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

To the Chairman and Members of the Romsey and Stockbridge Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit for your information and consideration the Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of the Rural District.

There has again been a little progress in exchanging tenancies so that the larger Council houses became available to bigger families and single people or elderly couples living alone were accommodated in smaller dwellings. As soon as national restrictions on expenditure were eased during the later part of the year, plans which had been shelved in 1957 were put into motion for building houses to enable the closing of hutted camps in the District.

The scheme for the collection and tipping of refuse has not worked entirely satisfactorily and there are plans for improving the service next year.

I must draw your attention to sewage disposal. Stockbridge, situate in a wide damp valley, is likely to have its mains water supply within the next year or two and in some other Parishes there has been, over the years, a steady increase in the number of houses so that there are a growing number of areas where the land is unable to deal with the volume of waste discharged and frequent emptying of cesspits is necessary. The need for and the cost of frequent emptying of cesspits is very rarely understood by people who buy new houses in relatively densely built rural areas and members of the staff of your Public Health Department are very often called upon to explain this most unpopular difficulty. The necessity of further sewage disposal schemes in several Parishes needs to be considered.

I am grateful to Mr. Smith, your Chief Public Health Inspector, for his co-operation in the preparation of Sections C, D and E.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

E. JACKSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

Staff

Medical Officer of Health (Part-time, 1 day per week)	E. JACKSON, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.'
Chief Public Health Inspector	H. G. SMITH, R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.
Additional Public Health Inspector	D. G. ANDREWS, R.S.H., A.R.S.H.
Rodent Officer	G. RAWLINS.
Clerk	Miss J. A. PROOM.

**SECTION A.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF
THE AREA.**

General Statistics.

Area (Acres)	82,606
Population (as estimated by the Registrar General)	20,880
Rateable Value (1.4.58)	£228,768
Product of each penny of General Rate (1.4.58)	£930.66
Number of Council Houses built (before 1939)	294
Number of Council Houses built after 1944 ..	508
	— 802
Number of Council Houses completed during 1958	36
Total Number of inhabited houses	6074

**Summary of Vital Statistics for the Year 1958, as supplied by the
Registrar General.**

	Total	Male	Female
Live Births—			
Total Registered	346	172	174
Legitimate	331	166	165
Illegitimate	15	6	9
Still Births—			
Total Registered	10	7	3
Legitimate	10	7	3
Illegitimate	0	0	0
Total live and still births	356		
Deaths—			
Total Registered	202	101	101
Maternal Deaths	0	—	0
Infant Deaths—			
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age:—			
Total Registered	7	4	3
Legitimate	7	4	3
Illegitimate	0	0	0

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age:—

Total Registered	5	3	2
Legitimate	5	3	2
Illegitimate	0	0	0

	Comparative Statistics where available	
	Romsey and Stockbridge Rural District	England and Wales
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population	16.5	16.4
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 live and still births ..	28.09	21.6
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births—		
Total	20.2	22.5
Legitimate	21.1	
Illegitimate	Nil	
Neo-natal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births	14.6	16.2
Illegitimate Live Births per cent of total live births	2.9	
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and still births	Nil	0.43
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population ..	9.7	11.7

Comparability Factors Births—1.09 Deaths—1.03

Causes of Death during 1958.

Causes of Death	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	0	0	0
Tuberculosis (Other Forms)	0	0	0
Syphilitic Disease	0	0	0
Diphtheria	0	0	0
Whooping Cough	0	0	0
Meningococcal Infections	0	0	0
Acute Poliomyelitis	0	0	0
Measles	0	0	0
Other Infections and Parasitic Diseases ..	0	0	0
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	3	3	6
,, ,, Lung and Bronchus ..	8	1	9
,, ,, Breast	0	6	6
,, ,, Uterus	—	0	0
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	14	4	18
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	0	0	0
Diabetes	1	1	2
Vascular lesions of the Nervous system ..	7	21	28
Coronary Disease, Angina	20	9	29
Hypertension with Heart Disease	1	1	2
Other Heart Diseases	15	21	36
Other Circulatory Diseases	3	4	7
Influenza	1	0	1
Pneumonia	3	6	9
Bronchitis	7	3	10

Other Diseases of Respiratory System ..	1	2	3
Ulcers of Stomach and Duodenum ..	2	0	2
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea ..	0	3	3
Nephritis and Nephrosis ..	1	0	1
Hyperplasia of Prostate ..	1	—	1
Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion ..	—	0	0
Congenital Malformations ..	1	2	3
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ..	9	14	23
Motor Vehicle Accidents ..	0	0	0
All other accidents ..	0	0	0
Suicide ..	3	0	3
Homicide and operations of war ..	0	0	0
TOTAL ..	68	65	133

Comments on the Vital Statistics.

The various rates calculated from the births and deaths are not statistically different from previous years.

This year details of infant mortality rates, etc., are given more fully than in previous years: this change in presentation has been made throughout the country.

SECTION B.—GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICE

1. The Medical Officer of Health is also the Medical Officer of Health of the Borough of Romsey and an Assistant County Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer of the Hampshire County Council. This combined appointment helps to co-ordinate the medical services supplied by the County Council as the Local Health Authority in accordance with Part III of the National Health Service Act, 1946, with the services supplied by the District Council.

Your Council also has nine representatives on the County Council District Health Sub-Committee—the District comprising the area of Romsey and Stockbridge Rural District and Romsey Borough. The Medical Officer of Health also attends quarterly Meetings of the District Health Sub-Committee.

2. The County Council supply the following services:—

(a) *Ambulance Service.*

Ambulances are stationed at Romsey (1) and Broughton (1) and controlled from the County Council Offices at Winchester. Additional ambulances can be sent to the District from the depot at Winchester.

(b) *Nursing in the Home.*

District Nurses are responsible for domiciliary midwifery and home nursing. They keep in close touch with the County Council Health Visitors, the Medical Officer of Health and the General Practitioners of their areas. No nursing arrangements or contribution is made by the District Council but nine members represent the Council on the District Health Sub-Committee of the County Council.

District Nurses.

Miss P. R. Cork, 8, Winfrith Way, Nursling.
Miss M. Laycock, 74, Chambers Avenue, Romsey.
Miss M. Neal, 2, New Road, Middle Wallop.
Mrs. M. Parkinson, Pound House, Spearywell.
Miss S. Rowell, Nurses Cottage, West Wellow.
Miss B. D. Sharp, 74, Chambers Avenue Romsey.
Mrs. S. A. Sheppard, 'Ty-Cwm', Horsebridge Road, King's
Somborne.

Combined Duties.

In two areas of the Rural District there is a combined
duties appointment and one person does the duties of
District Nurse, Midwife and Health Visitor.
Miss M. M. Chapman, 22, Plough Gardens, Broughton.
Miss I. C. Clarke, 'Newlands', Rectory Hill, West Dean.

Health Visitors.

Miss M. L. Collins, H.C.C. Health Centre, Junction Road,
Andover.
Mrs. M. Pointer, 'Bryn-Coed', Awbridge (Resigned
10.5.58).
Mrs. M. E. Ward, Flat 2, Harefield House, Mile Hill,
Romsey.
Mrs. C. E. Watts, 41, Newlands Avenue, Southampton.
Miss D. D. Woodcock, 48, Ashfield Road, Andover.
Miss Porter, H.C.C. Health Centre, Totton.
Miss Williams, 'Landsbrook', Landford, Nr. Salisbury.
(From 10th November, 1958).

(c) Child Welfare Services.

The County Council employ Health Visitors, who visit
children from the age of two weeks, when they pass from
the care of the District Nurse, until the age of five years
when the child enters school.

In addition the County Council hold child welfare
Clinics in this district as indicated:—

Broughton	..	2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month at 2.30 p.m.
Houghton	..	2nd Monday of the month at 2.30 p.m.
King's Somborne		1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month at 2.30 p.m.
Lockerley	..	2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month at 2.30 p.m.
Leckford	..	3rd Tuesday of the month at 2.30 p.m.
Mottisfont	..	2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month at 2.30 p.m.
North Baddesley		1st and 3rd Friday of the month at 2.30 p.m.
Nursling	..	2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month at 2.30 p.m.
Over Wallop	..	1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month at 2.30 p.m.
Romsey	..	Every Thursday at 10 a.m. and 2.30 p.m.
Stockbridge	..	1st and 3rd Friday of the month at 2.30 p.m.

Wellow . . . 2nd and 4th Friday of the month at 2.30 p.m.
West Tytherley 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month at 2.30 p.m.

The Child welfare clinics are staffed by Health Visitors, Assistant County Medical Officers and voluntary Helpers. The District Nurses generally attend these clinics.

(d) *Care of Mothers and young Children.*

Ante-natal care is given by General Practitioners in the district, and by the District Nurses, and some patients attend Maternity Hospital in Winchester, Salisbury or Southampton. Dental care is provided for expectant mothers and for children under school age.

(e) *Home Help Service.*

This service is provided for mothers confined at home, for those in charge of the elderly, the chronic sick, etc. The District Health Sub-Committee receive reports.

(f) *Vaccination and Immunisation.*

See Section 'F' of this report—Infectious Diseases Prophylaxis.

(g) *Prevention of Illness, care and after care.*

These services are part of the duties of Health visitors and district nurses.

3. *Hospital Services.*

The South West Regional Hospital Board supply general maternity and infectious diseases (including tuberculosis and smallpox) hospital services for this area.

4. *Laboratory Facilities.*

Laboratory facilities are available at the Public Health Laboratory, Winchester, the M.R.C. Laboratory, Southampton, and the Pathology Department, Salisbury General Infirmary.

SECTION C.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. *Water Supply.*

- (i) During the year fifty-seven (57) samples of water from private supplies were submitted for bacteriological examination. Forty (40) were found to be satisfactory.

Thirty-two (32) samples taken from the Council's mains for bacteriological examination and three (3) for chemical analysis were also satisfactory.

During the summer there were no reports of shortage of water.

(ii) The Southampton Corporation remain the Statutory Undertakers for the following Parishes in the southern part of the Rural District.

Ampfield, Chilworth, Braishfield, Michelmersh, Mot-tisfont, North Baddesley, Nursling and Rownhams, Rom-sey Extra and Sherfield English (part).

The West Hants Water Company supply water to the Parishes of Melchet Park and Plaitford (part) and Wellow.

Preliminary work was completed by the Council's Consulting Engineers during the year in connection with the Stage 3 extension of watermains to Stockbridge, Houghton and the Wallops, which will include the pro- vision of a Reservoir at Chattis Hill. It is anticipated that the scheme will be largely completed by the end of 1959.

(iii) No cases of contamination by lead were experienced during the year.

(iv) The number of premises connected to the Council's mains are shown in Table (vi). No formal action to secure an internal piped water supply to house premises has been necessary.

(v) The following extensions of water mains were com- pleted during the year:—

Parish	Length in yards	Diam. of Mains. in inches
Braishfield	150	3
North Baddesley ..	76	4
North Baddesley ..	221	3
Nursling and Rownhams	367	4
Nursling and Rownhams	405	6

(vi) The numbers of houses supplied from Public water mains are as follows:—

Parish	Number of Houses
Ampfield	324
Ashley	5
Bossington	5
Braishfield	139
Broughton	174
Chilworth	260
East Dean	66
East Tytherley ..	19
Frenchmoor	11
King's Somborne ..	180

Lockerley	156
Melchet Park and Plaitford ..	50
Michelmersh	135
Mottisfont	3
North Baddesley	629
Nursling and Rownhams ..	719
Romsey Extra	143
Sherfield English	272
Wellow	326
West Tytherley	2

2. *Sewerage.*

No sewers were laid during the year. A large percentage of the properties in the sewered Parish of North Baddesley and the partly-sewered Parish of Nursling and Rownhams were connected thereto by the end of the year.

A survey was made of many properties in the above Parishes during the year and informal action resulted in several owners of tenanted properties and to a lesser degree, owner/occupiers, arranging for the necessary work of conversion to main drainage being carried out.

One hundred per cent connection is, of course, the ultimate aim but naturally enough the owners of cesspools and septic tanks which function reasonably well, are reluctant to expend money on sewer connections, added to which the Local Authority would find it difficult to prove, if occasion should arise, that such means of disposal were 'insufficient' or 'prejudicial to health or a nuisance' within the meaning of the Act of 1936.

Towards the end of the year, the Council, bearing in mind that their watermains should be laid in the village of Stockbridge during 1959, Resolved to obtain an up-to-the-moment Estimate of the cost of sewerage the village.

From the Public Health aspect it seems unfortunate that co-ordination of watermain and sewer laying cannot be achieved.

It is possible that serious nuisances may arise if the greater volume of sewage which will be produced, when piped water is available, is permitted to flow into the network of streams and shallow soakaways which are at present used in the area.

SECTION D.—HOUSING.

- (i) The Huttred Camps under this Council's control should be closed during 1959.
- (ii) Thirty-six (36) Council houses were erected during the year.
- (iii) One hundred and fifty (150) houses were erected by private enterprise.
- (iv) Huttred camps under the control of the Local Authority.

Number of Huts occupied at the end of the year	Number of Huts demolished	Estimated number of persons remain- ing in occupation
21	13	126

(v) *Movable Dwellings.*

There are sixty-six (66) movable dwellings with licences and fourteen (14) licensed sites providing accommodation for one hundred and eighty-two (182) caravans.

The licensed sites are generally kept in a most satisfactory state but we still have the two gypsy encampments with us and have experienced considerable difficulty with gypsies camping without the owners' permission in the Nursling and Rownhams area.

4. *Public Cleansing.*

The bi-monthly collection of refuse continued during the year. The rapid growth of the Parishes of North Baddesley and Nursling and Rownhams—since the introduction of main drainage—produced many problems and on occasions when a three-week 'gap' occurred between collections in these Parishes, the quantity of refuse collected was so great that a spare vehicle would spend the day following the normal collection day clearing up the more sparsely populated areas. Accordingly it was resolved to commence a fortnightly collection in the new year, which will no doubt relieve the situation. Conditions at the Council's refuse tip at Casbrook Common became difficult also. A fire which commenced in April was burning continuously throughout the year, although being well under control and dying out during the winter months. This disorganised usual tipping arrangements and refuse was tipped of necessity too deeply—which made insect control very arduous.

In order to maintain a really '*controlled tip*' it is evident that mechanical assistance is essential to level refuse at the desired height and to dig and cover it immediately with top-soil.

By agreement, refuse from the Borough of Romsey continued to be disposed of by this Authority.

SECTION E.—FOOD.

- (i) There is no licensed slaughter-house in the district.
- (ii) Forty-one (41) samples of pasteurised milk were submitted for examination. All proved satisfactory.
The two batch pasteurising plants were frequently inspected and found to be satisfactory.
- (iii) Registration of premises under Section 16 Food and Drugs Act, 1955'

Premises Registered for Manufacture of Ice Cream	Registration for Sale of Ice-cream	Registration for preparation or manufacture of sausages
1	78	10

One hundred and seventy-one (171) inspections of Registered premises were made during the year.

Twenty (20) samples of Ice-cream were examined and all placed in Provisional Grade I. These results are most satisfactory.

(vi) *Number of Food Premises in the area:—*

Licenced premises	..	..	..	..	56
Restaurants ..	..	..	..	..	18
Food Stores ..	..	..	..	..	82
Bake-houses	..	..	..	..	3
Butchers' shops	..	..	..	..	11
Fish shops ..	..	..	..	..	2

(v) *Food Hygiene Regulations 1955—56.*

Routine inspections under the above Regulations have been made throughout the year.

(vi) *Condemned Food-stuffs.*

The following articles of food were voluntarily surrendered during the year.

1 × 10 lb. tin Golden Apricot Pulp.

6¼ lb. Pigs Liver.

2 × 6 lb. Red Cherries in Syrup.

2 × 2 pint Tins Carnation Evaporated Milk.

(vii) No cases of Food poisoning were reported during the year.

(viii) During the year proceedings were taken against a large bakery for selling a loaf of bread not of the quality demanded, in that it contained a cigarette end.

The Firm was fined £20 and ordered to pay £5 towards the cost of the prosecution.

6. *Factories.*

(i) Inspection for the purpose of provision as to health (including inspections made by the Public Health Inspectors).

Premises (1)	M/c. Line No. (2)	No. on Registered (3)	Number of			M/c. Line No. (7)
			Inspection (4)	Notices Written (5)	Occup's Pros'ted (6)	
(i) Factories in which Sec. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ..	1	5	9	—	—	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ..	2	60	27	—	—	2
(iii) Other premises which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers) ..	3	—	—	—	—	3
TOTAL ..		65	36	—	—	

(ii) Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars (1)	M/c. Line No. (2)	Number of Cases in which Defects were					M/c. Line No. (8)
		Found (3)	Remedied (4)	Referred to H. M. Inspector (5)	Referred by H. M. Inspector (6)	Prosecutions (7)	
Want of cleanliness (Sec. 1) ..	4	—	—	—	—	—	4
Overcrowding (Sec. 2) ..	5	—	—	—	—	—	5
Unreasonable temperature (Sec. 3) ..	6	—	—	—	—	—	6
Inadequate ventilation (Sec. 4) ..	7	—	—	—	—	—	7
Ineffective drainage of floors (Sec. 6) ..	8	—	—	—	—	—	8
Sanitary Conveniences (Sec. 7) ..	9	—	—	—	—	—	9
(a) Insufficient ..							
(b) Unsuitable or defective ..	10	—	—	—	—	—	10
(c) Not separate for sexes ..	11	—	—	—	—	—	11
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork) ..	12	—	—	—	—	—	12
TOTAL ..	60	—	—	—	—	—	60

- (iii) Seven (7) Outworkers were employed in the District in the making of wearing apparel. All premises were inspected and found satisfactory.

7. *Rodent Control.*

The rodent control staff consisting of the Rodent Officer and one operator surveyed four hundred and eighteen (418) Agricultural Premises, ninety-one (91) Business Premises and one thousand, five hundred and one (1,501) Private Dwellings.

SECTION F.—PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Notifications of Infectious Disease received during the year 1958 are tabulated below.

Notification by age-groups

Disease	Total Notified	Under 1 yr.	1-2 yrs.	3-4 yrs.	5-9 yrs.	10-14 yrs.	15-44 yrs.	45-64 yrs.	65 and over	Fatalities
Scarlet Fever	2	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	6	—	—	2	3	—	1	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Paralytic	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Non-paralytic	86	6	9	17	35	8	1	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Pneumonia	8	—	1	—	—	2	2	1	2	—
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis—										
Respiratory	23	—	3	—	—	6	9	4	1	—
Non-Respiratory	2	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—

Many cases of measles, mumps, whooping-cough and diarrhoea are not notified.

The Mobile Mass Miniature Radiography Unit was in Romsey and the Rural District for a week during July and there was a small increase in notifications of tuberculosis after the visit.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES PROPHYLAXIS

Immunisation against Diphtheria.

The estimated number of children in the area who had completed a full course of diphtheria immunisation by 31st December, 1958, was as follows:—

Children born in 1958	..	..	45
,, ,, between 1954-57	..	..	795
,, ,, ,, 1949-53	..	..	1,122
,, ,, ,, 1944-48	..	..	1,458

These figures for under 5 year olds represent about 60% of all children in the age group. During the year the majority of children immunised against Diphtheria were at the same time given protection against whooping-cough and tetanus.

There has been a marked drop in the proportion of children receiving a 'booster' injection prior to entering school when 5 years old. This is dangerous; although there were no cases of Diphtheria in this area there was an increase in the number of cases in the country as a whole during 1958.

Vaccination against Smallpox.

Two hundred and twenty (220) primary vaccinations were carried out during the year and about ninety (90) re-vaccinations. Among the primary vaccinations 203 were of children and 175 of these children were in their first year of life.

The figures for babies vaccinated when expressed as a percentage of the live births in the area represents 50%. This is an improvement on previous years but it is still a lower proportion than in the other rural districts of Hampshire and this level would not form a barrier against the spread of smallpox were this introduced from countries where the disease is prevalent. Travellers from such countries arrive at the sea and airports in the boroughs whose boundaries march with this Rural District.

Vaccination against Poliomyelitis.

One thousand, six hundred and twenty-one people had received at least 2 injections of vaccine by the end of the year.

During the early part of the year there was a limited supply of vaccine available but when large quantities of vaccine were distributed the number of injections given increased rapidly. At the end of the summer two important changes were announced by the Minister of Health, namely that vaccination would be available for all born since 1st January, 1933, and that a third injection should be given. The third injection is given after an interval of at least seven months after the second injection. These developments in the fight against poliomyelitis have involved much extra work on the part of the family doctors who have given most of the injections in this Rural District; and in the office of your Medical Officer of health who is responsible for the administrative work of registration, distribution of vaccine, record keeping and local publicity.

Vaccination against Tuberculosis.

B.C.G. vaccination is now available to all 13-year-old school-children in the County.

During the year skin testing and vaccination was offered to children in the schools in this district.

